

March 2023 Weather Digest



March 2023 Weather Summary

This March turned out to be very typical of a normal March with several wind storms and very little precipitation. The month started out with a bang as a strong Pacific storm moved across on the first through the third. This storm brought 40-70 mph winds across the area, along with around 3-5 inches of snow over the Sacramento Mountains. Another Pacific storm moved through on the 15th and 16th, bringing winds up to 50 mph. It also brought a soaking rain to the Sacramento Mountains on the 16th, which then turned into moderate snow the next couple of days as a cold front moved in from the east. Other Pacific systems brought strong winds to the area on the 21st and 30th.

For the month as a whole, much of the area was below normal for rainfall, with El Paso and Hudspeth Counties recording well below normal rainfall. The same dry pattern was repeated west of the Continental Divide. In between these two areas, the rainfall was a bit more generous, with Luna, Sierra, Dona Ana and Otero Counties receiving well above normal precipitation.

March 2023 Weather Summary

March was also close to normal with respect to temperature as most places saw slightly above normal high temperatures and slightly below normal low temperatures.

Looking ahead to April, we continue to warm up in earnest, as daylight also increases. At El Paso, the normal high on April 1 is 77 degrees, warming to 83 on the last day of the month. Daylight increases from 12 hours, 30 mins on the first, to 13 hours, 23 minutes on April 30.

Looking at the moon, the full moon occurs on the 5th. this full moon is known as the Pink Moon, and also the Paschal Moon, which sets the date for Easter—Easter falling on the first Sunday after the Paschal Moon. There is one eclipse in April, that being a Solar Eclipse occurring on April 20. Unfortunately for us, the eclipse will only be seen across Australia and Indonesia.

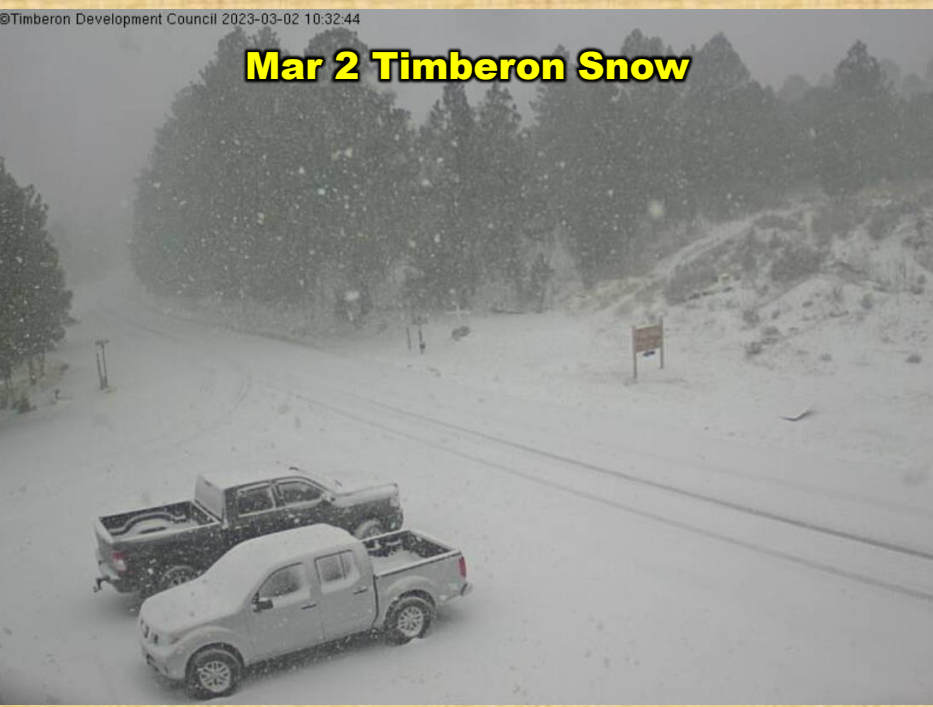
Mar 2 Apache Summit Snow



Mar 2 Lake Mescalero Snow



Mar 2 Timberson Snow



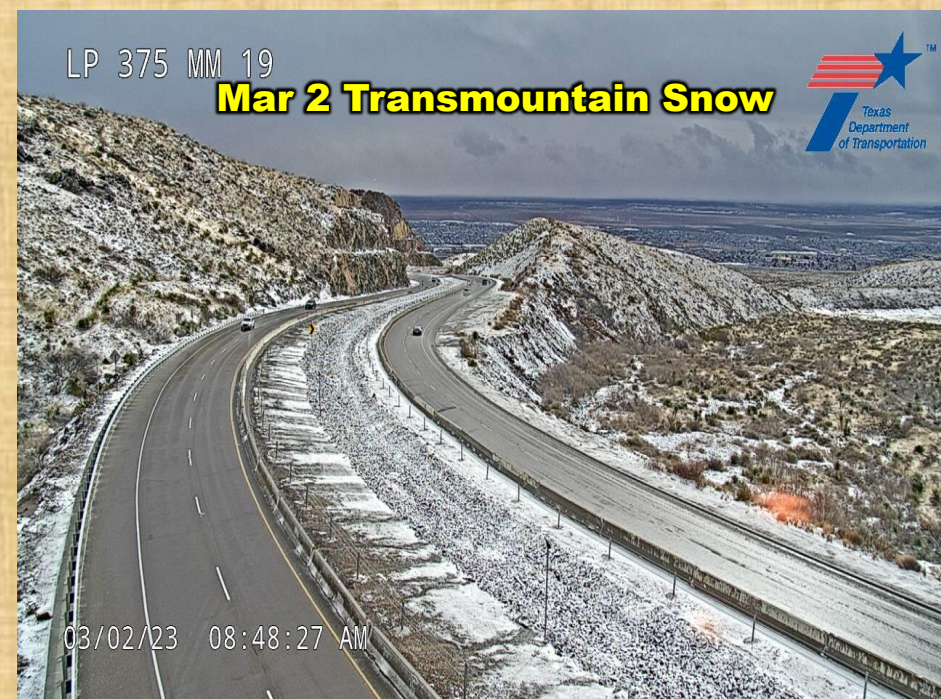
Mar 2 Santa Teresa Snow



Mar 2 Franklin Mtns Snow



Mar 2 Franklin Mtns Snow



03/02/2019 10:18 AM
Mar 2 Silver City Snow



Mar 2 Silver City Snow



Mar 2 Pinos Altos Snow



Mar 23 Silver City Rainbow



ENSO Alert System Status: Final La Niña Advisory in Affect

ENSO Alert System

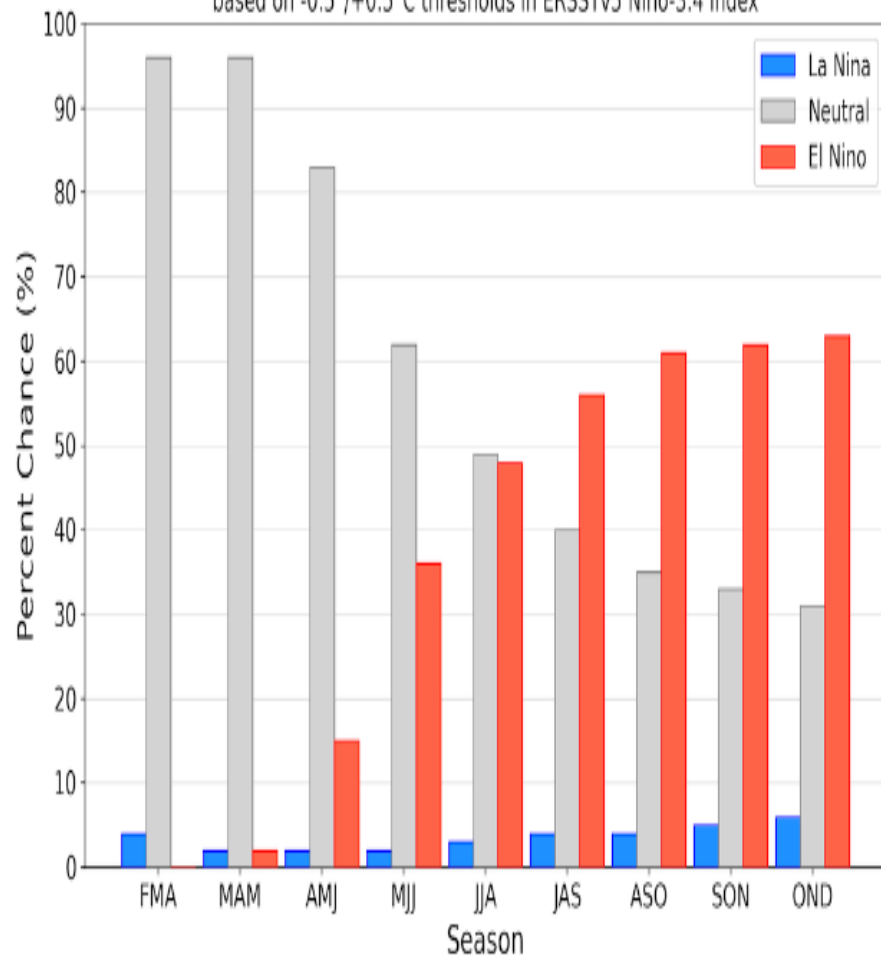
- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

ENSO Forecast

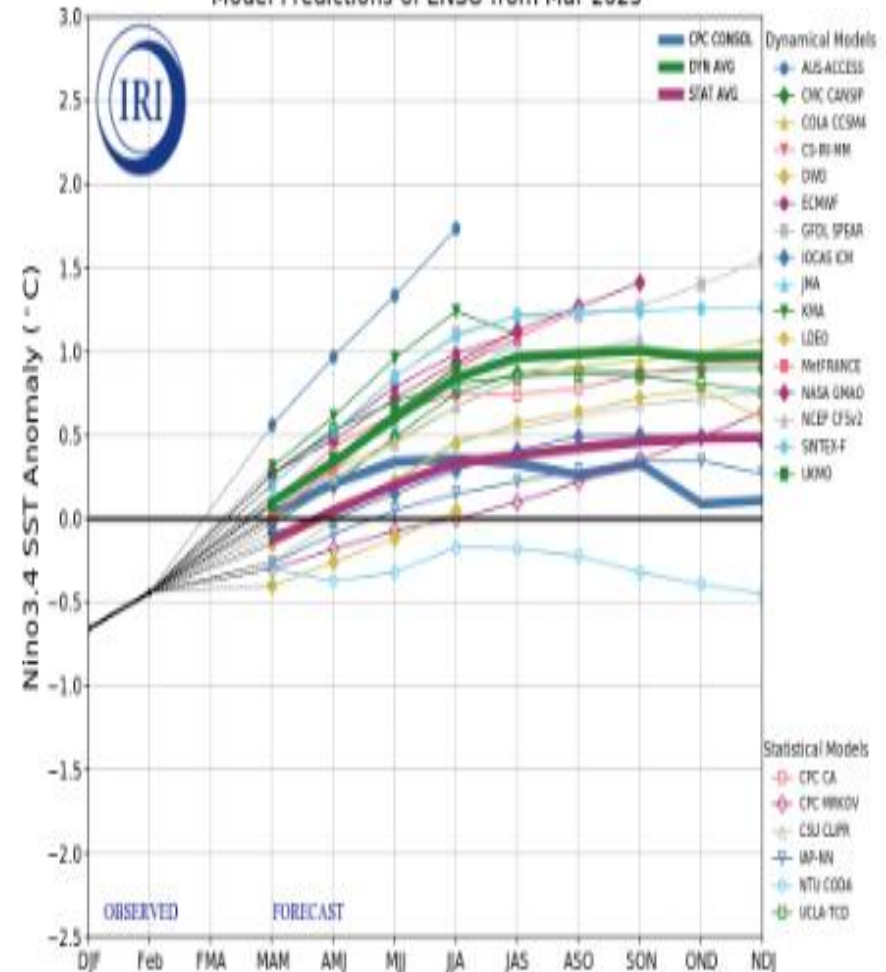
ENSO is transitioning to a neutral status. Forecast shows neutral likely transitioning to El Niño toward the end of summer or beginning of fall.

Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued Mar. 2023)

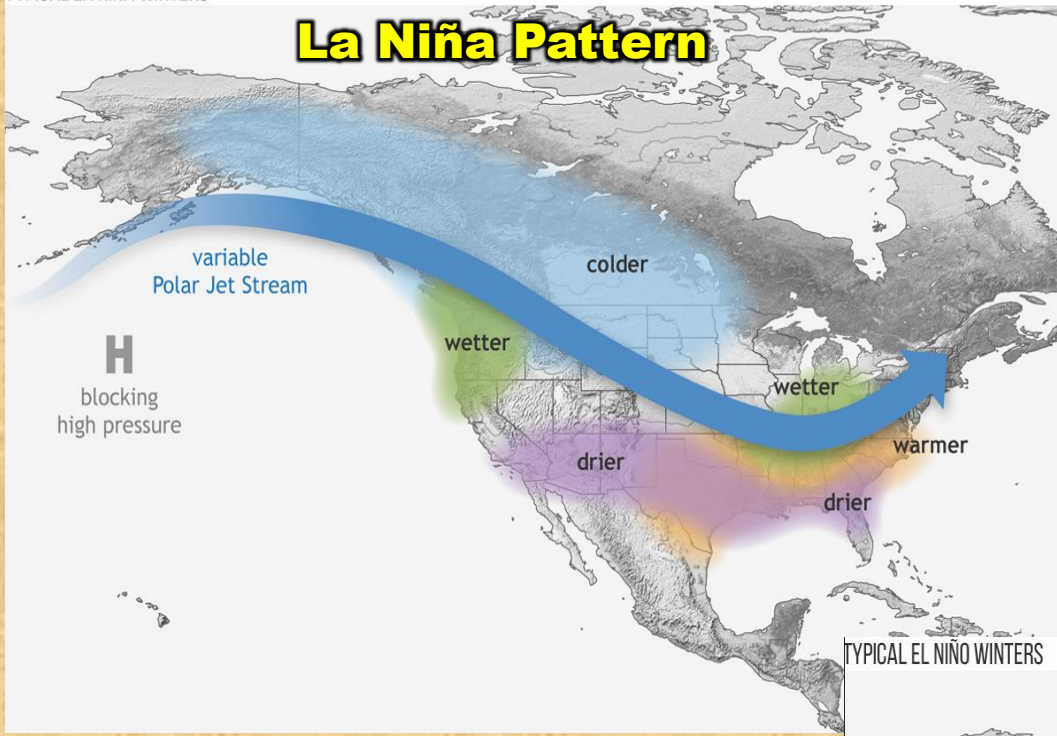
based on $-0.5^{\circ}/+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ thresholds in ERSSTv5 Niño-3.4 index



Model Predictions of ENSO from Mar 2023



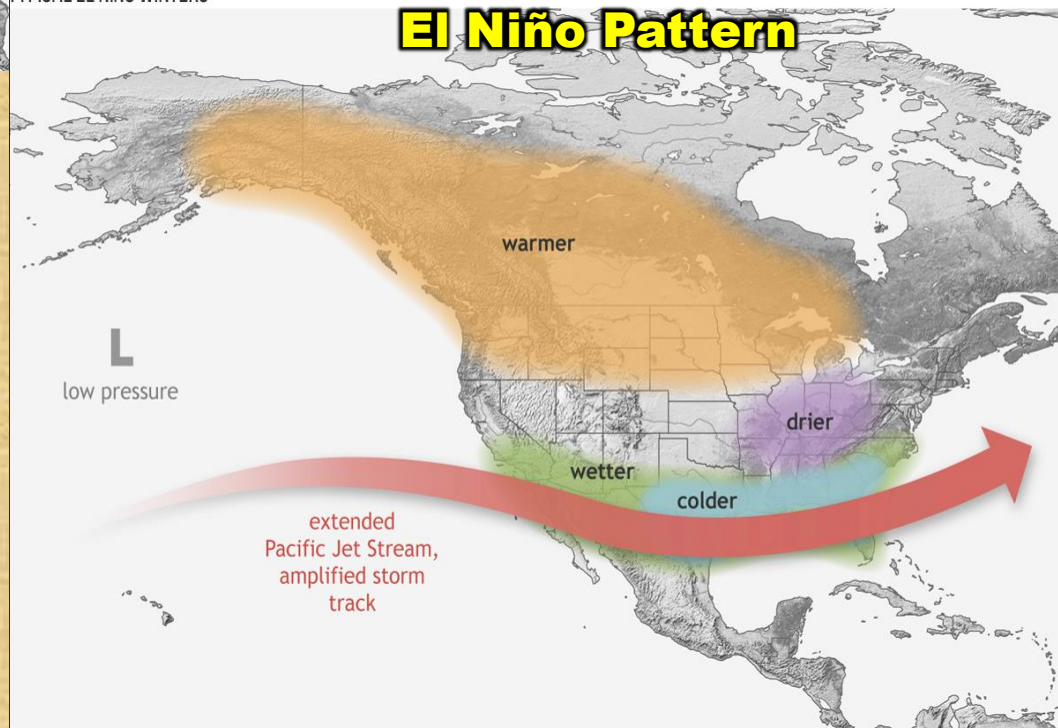
La Niña Pattern



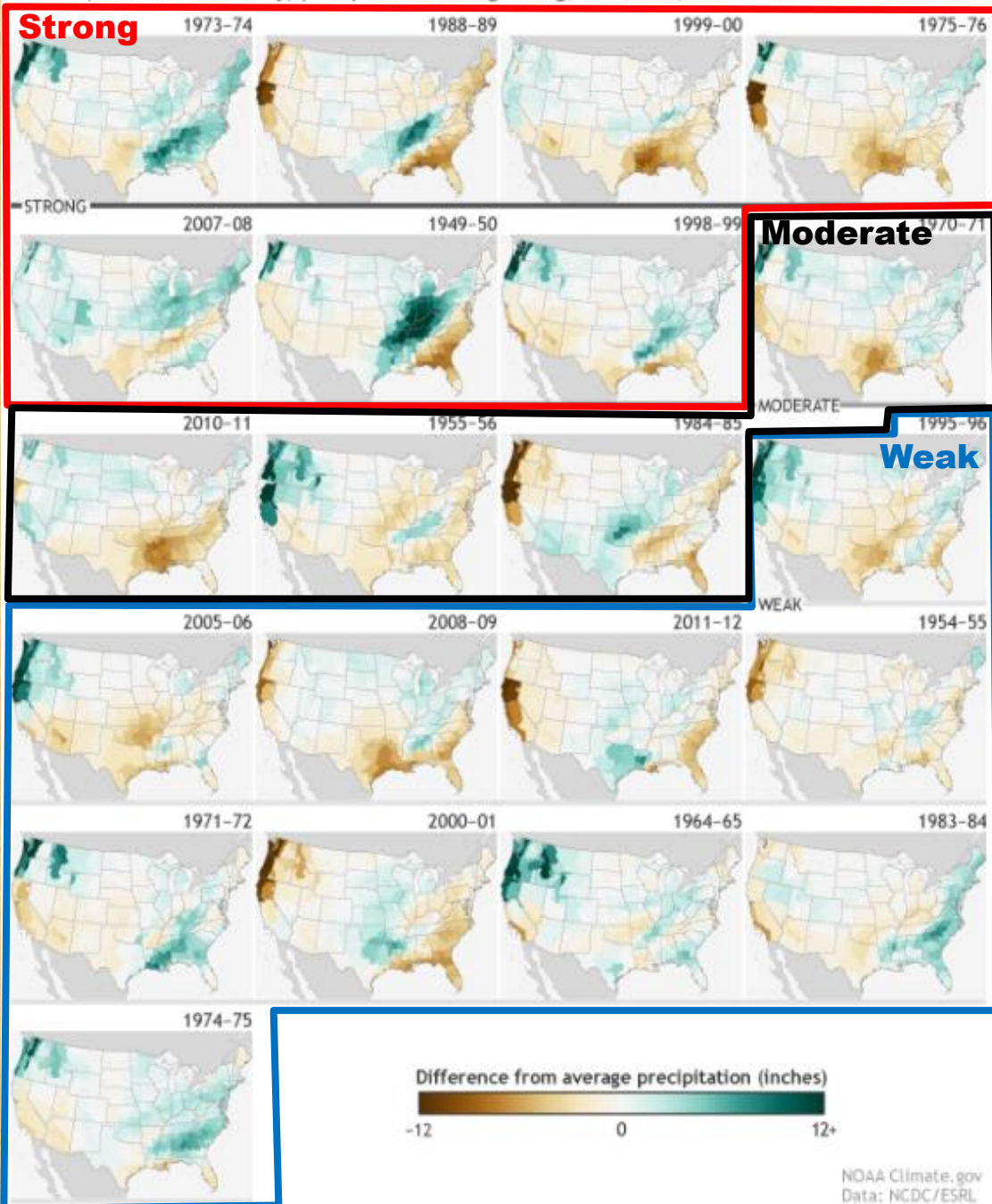
With a La Niña pattern, a ridge of high pressure tends to build off the west coast of the U.S., blocking most of our Pacific winter storm systems. These storms tend to end up moving across the northern Plains and down to the southeastern part of the country. Of course it is important to remember that these patterns are only what typically happens and are not guaranteed to occur.

With El Niño, we often see the opposite pattern where the eastern Pacific ridge of high pressure is often weak or non-existent, allowing winter storms to sweep across the southern U.S. This typically will give the southwestern U.S. above normal precipitation.

El Niño Pattern



Winter (December-February) precipitation during strong, moderate, and weak La Niñas since 1950

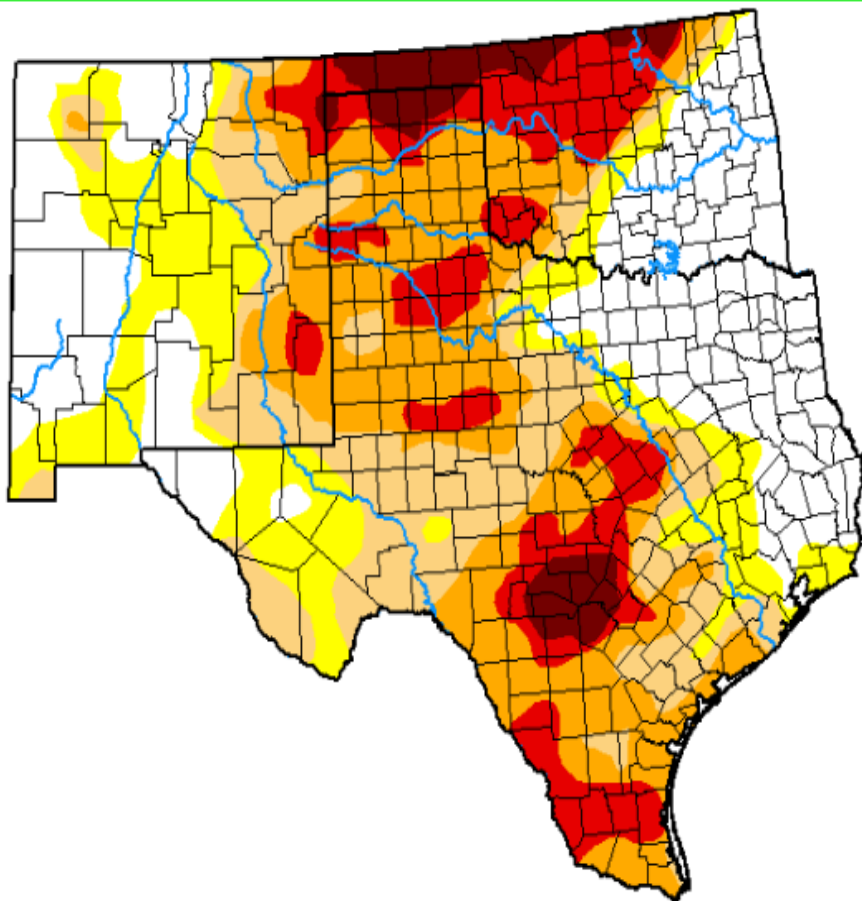


Examples of the numerous La Niña winters since 1950. These maps depict the departure from normal precipitation amounts for a winter.

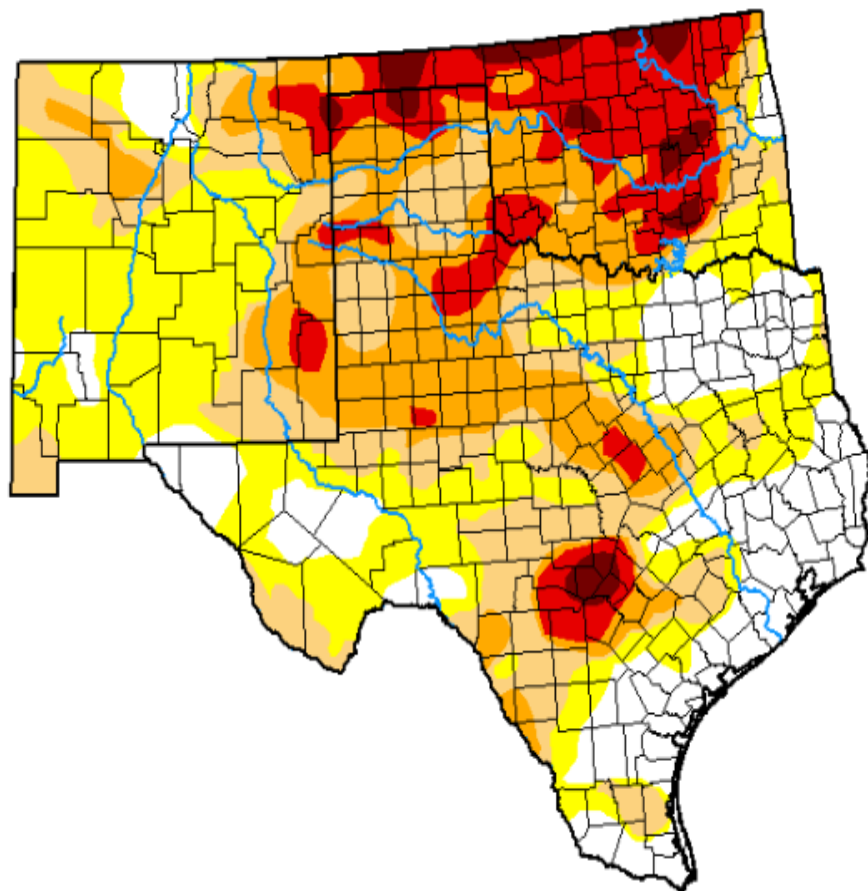
Current drought conditions and 3 month change

- Abnormally Dry – D0
- Moderate Drought – D1
- Severe Drought – D2
- Extreme Drought – D3
- Exceptional – D4

March 28, 2023

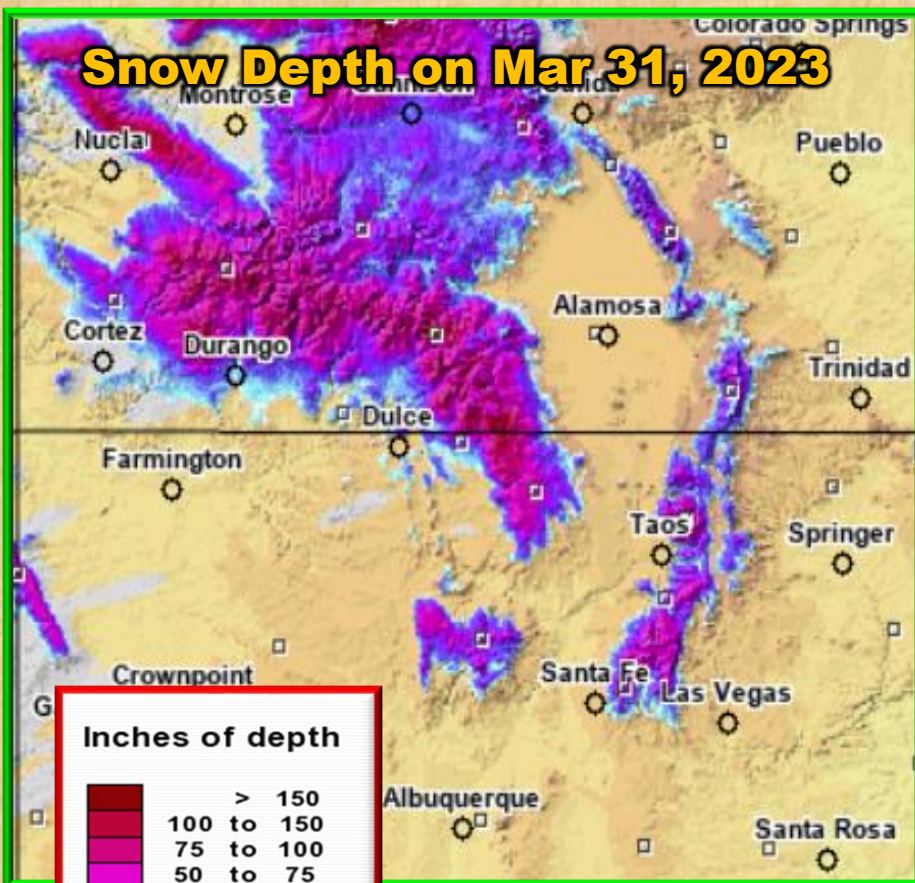


December 27, 2022

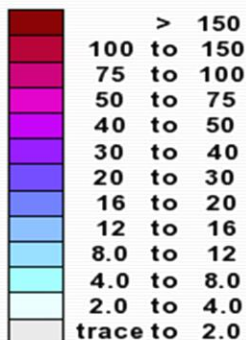


Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of March 31, 2023

Snow Depth on Mar 31, 2023

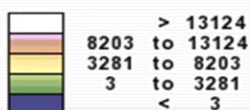


Inches of depth

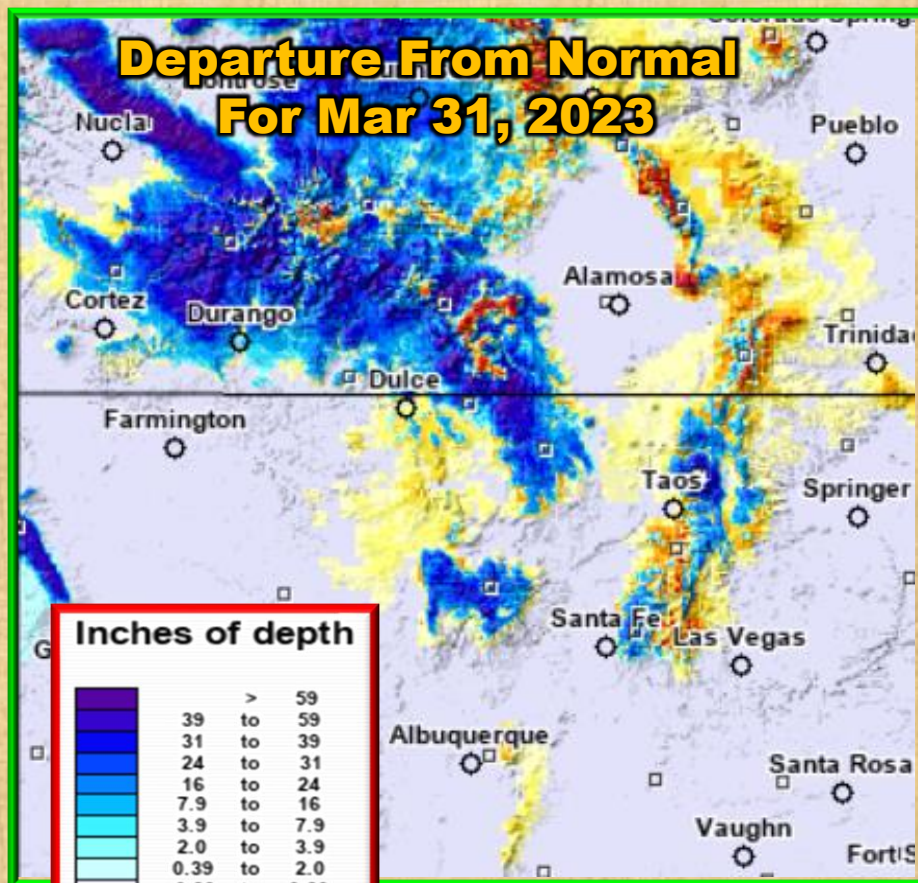


Not Estimated

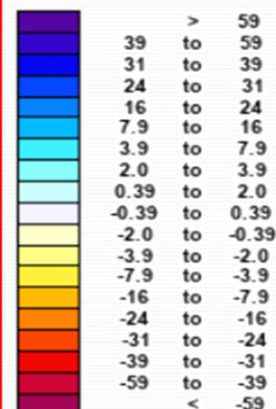
Elevation in feet



Departure From Normal For Mar 31, 2023



Inches of depth



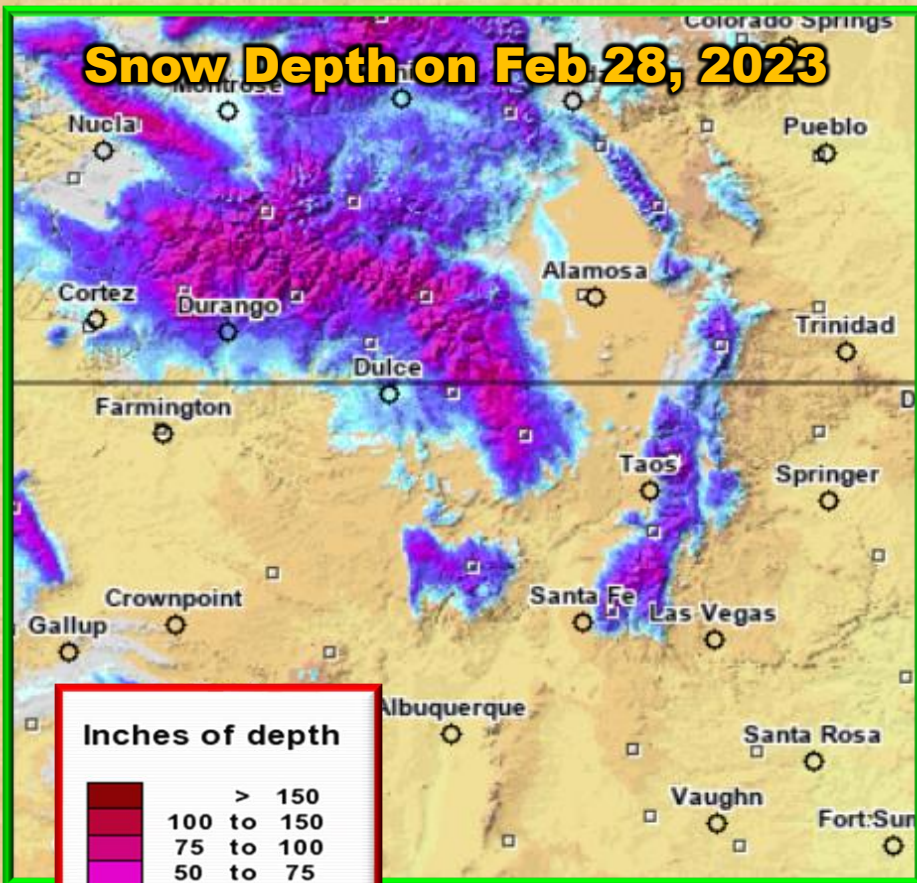
Not Estimated

Elevation in feet

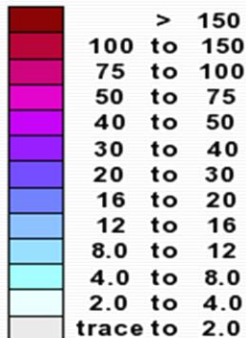


Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of Feb 28, 2023

Snow Depth on Feb 28, 2023

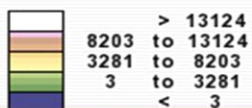


Inches of depth

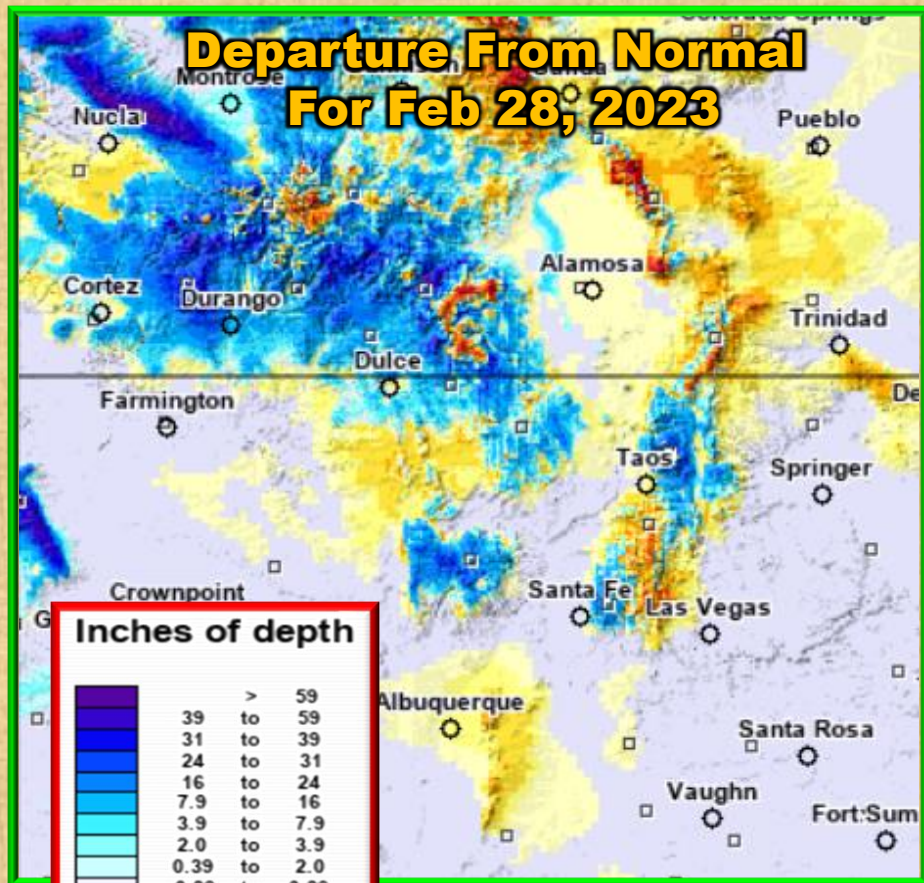


Not Estimated

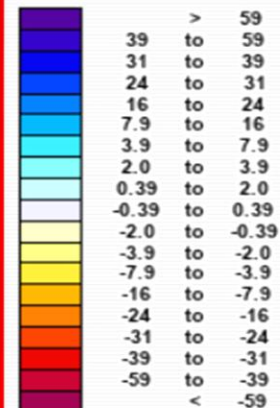
Elevation in feet



Departure From Normal For Feb 28, 2023



Inches of depth



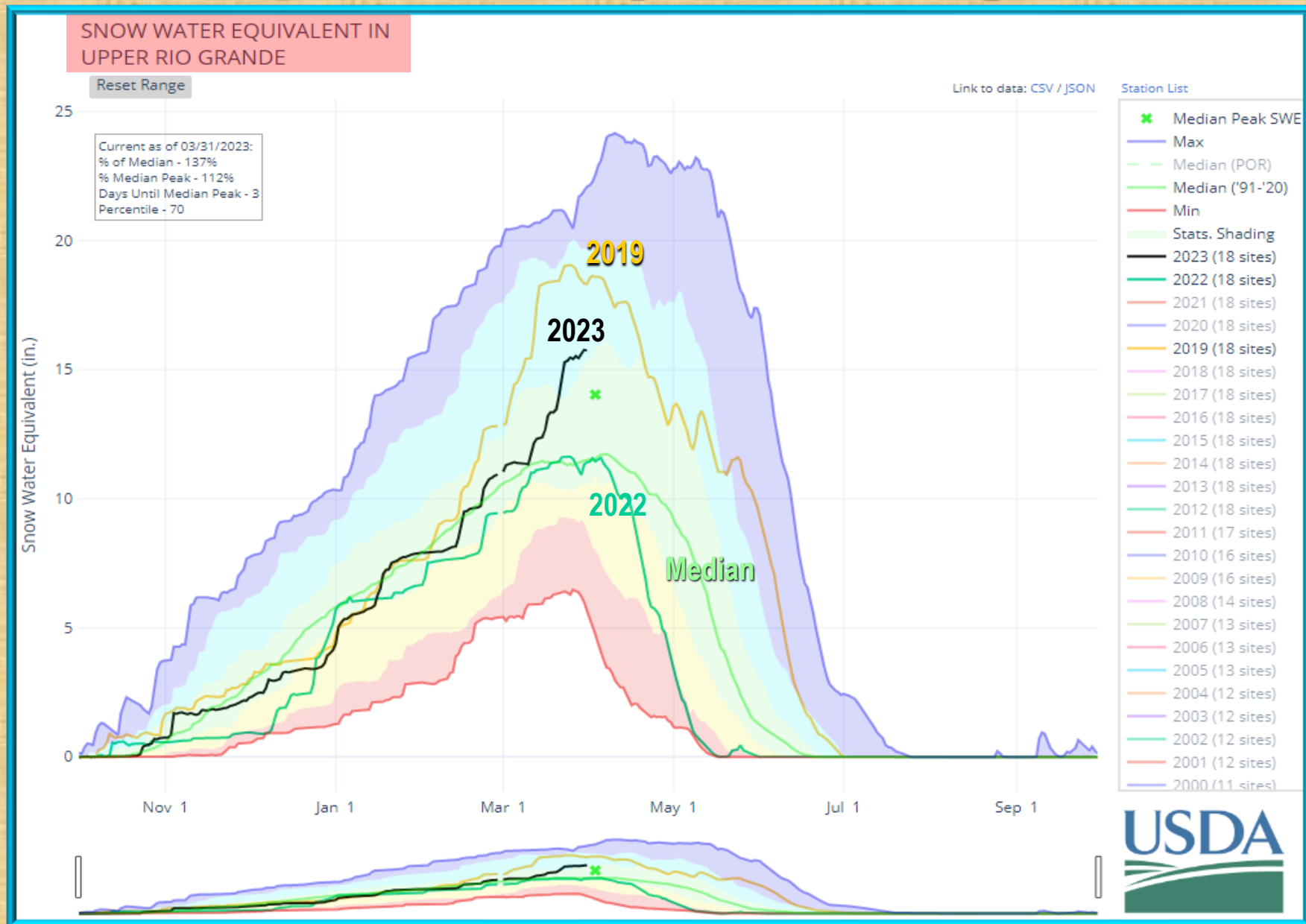
Not Estimated

Elevation in feet



Snow Water Equivalent as of Mar 31, 2023

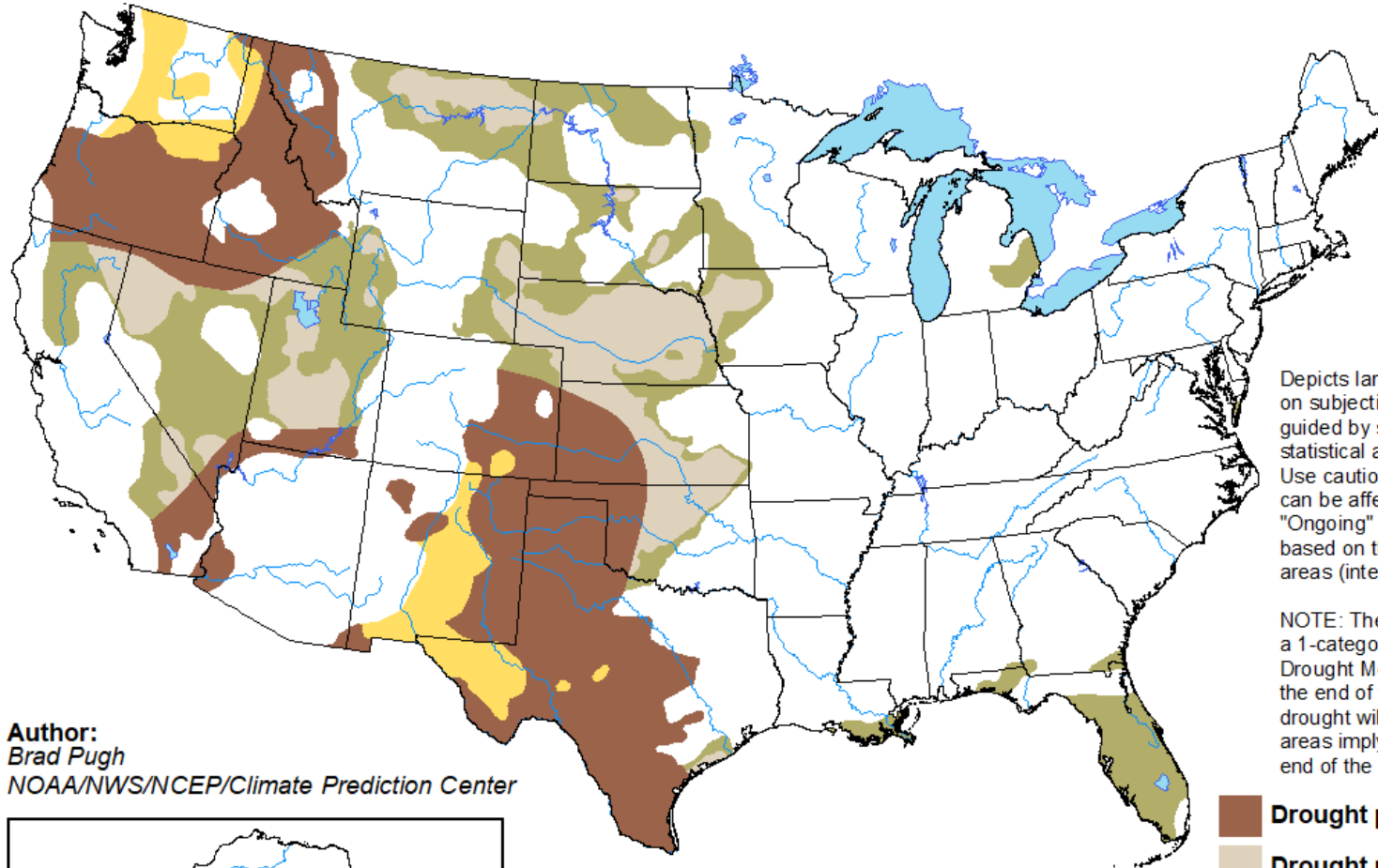
Compare to last few years and average values



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period





Valid for March 16 - June 30, 2023
Released March 16

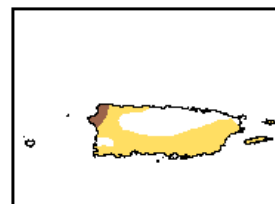
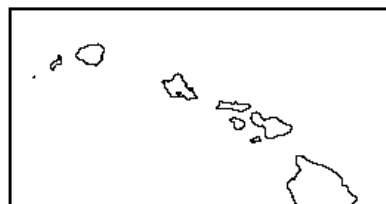


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:
Brad Pugh
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

-  Drought persists
-  Drought remains but improve
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely

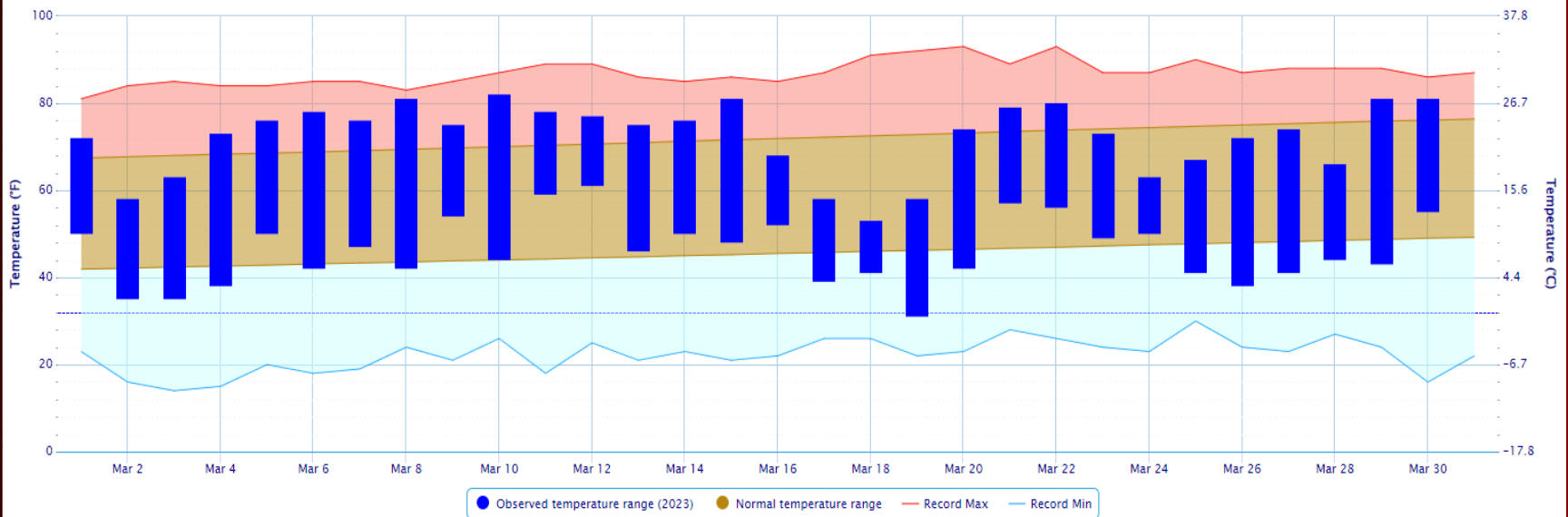


Temperature and precipitation data for March 2023 in El Paso

○ = record

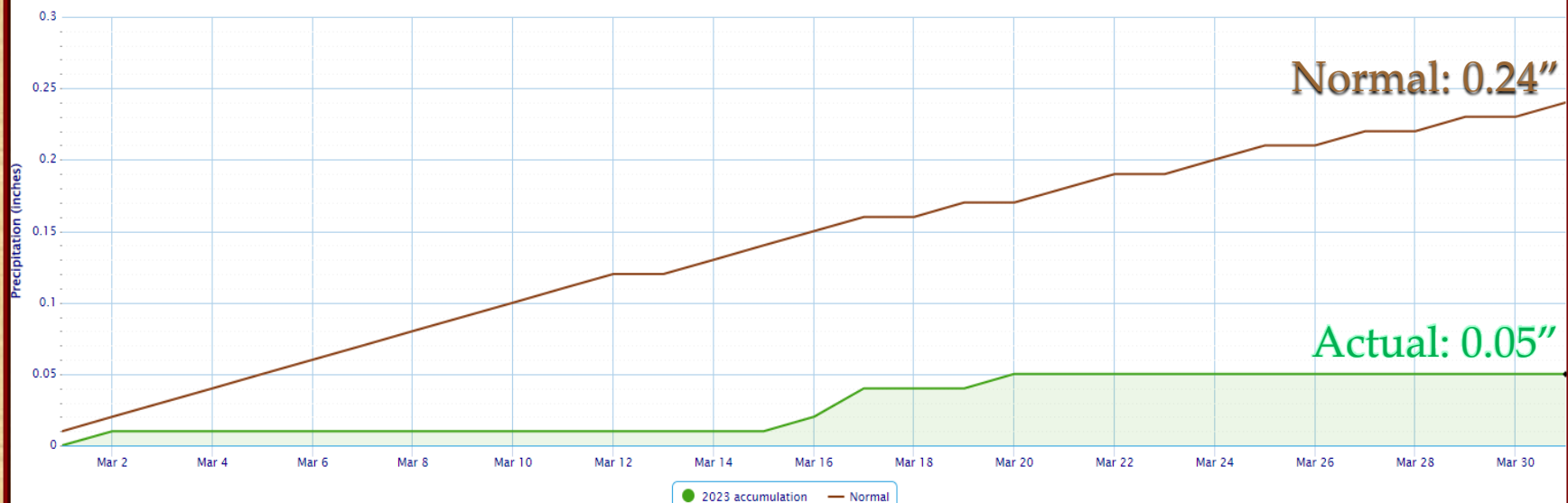
Daily Temperature Data – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – Max temperature: 1887-01-01 to 2023-03-30; Min temperature: 1879-01-01 to 2023-03-30. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.

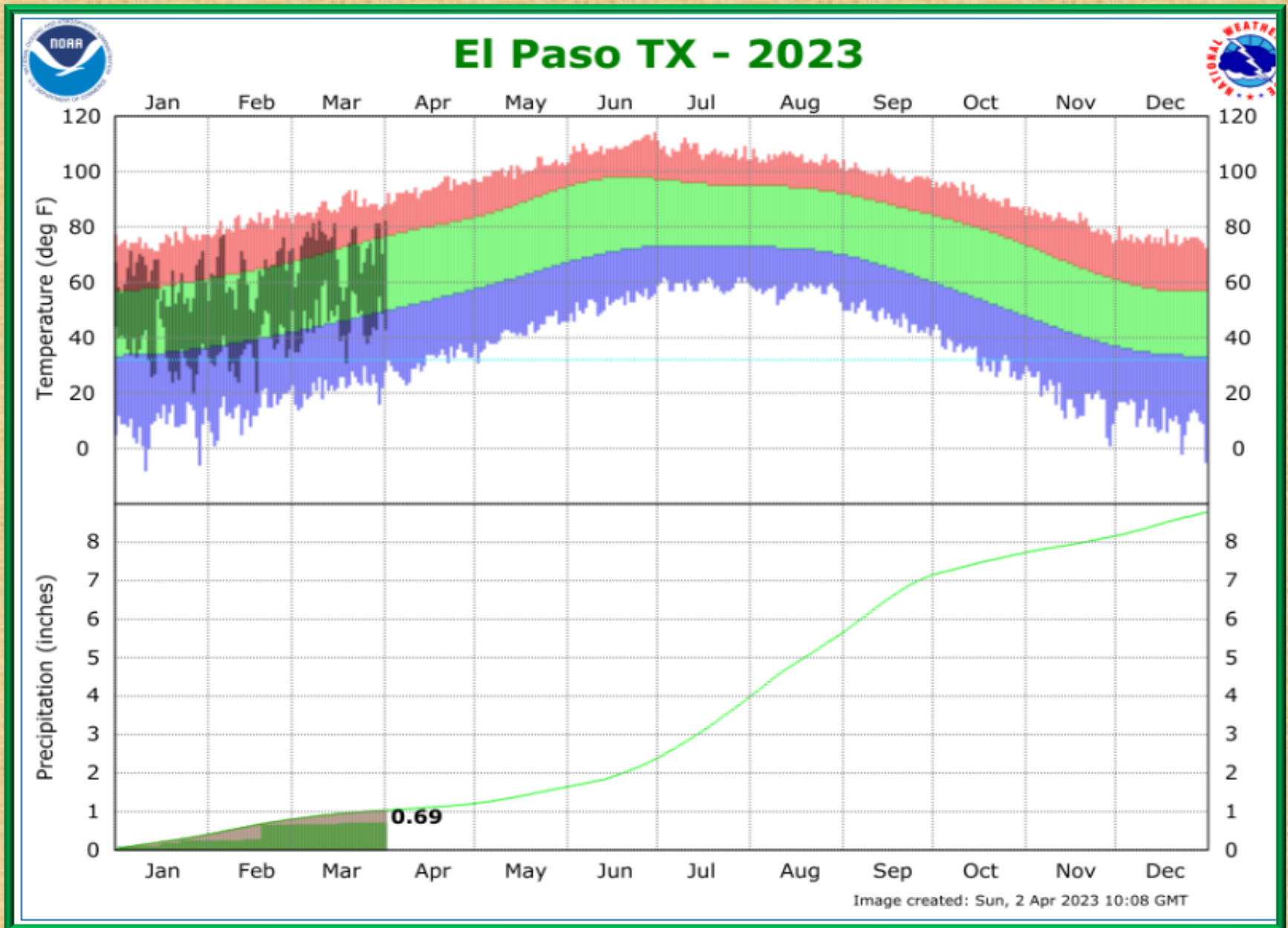


Accumulated Precipitation – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

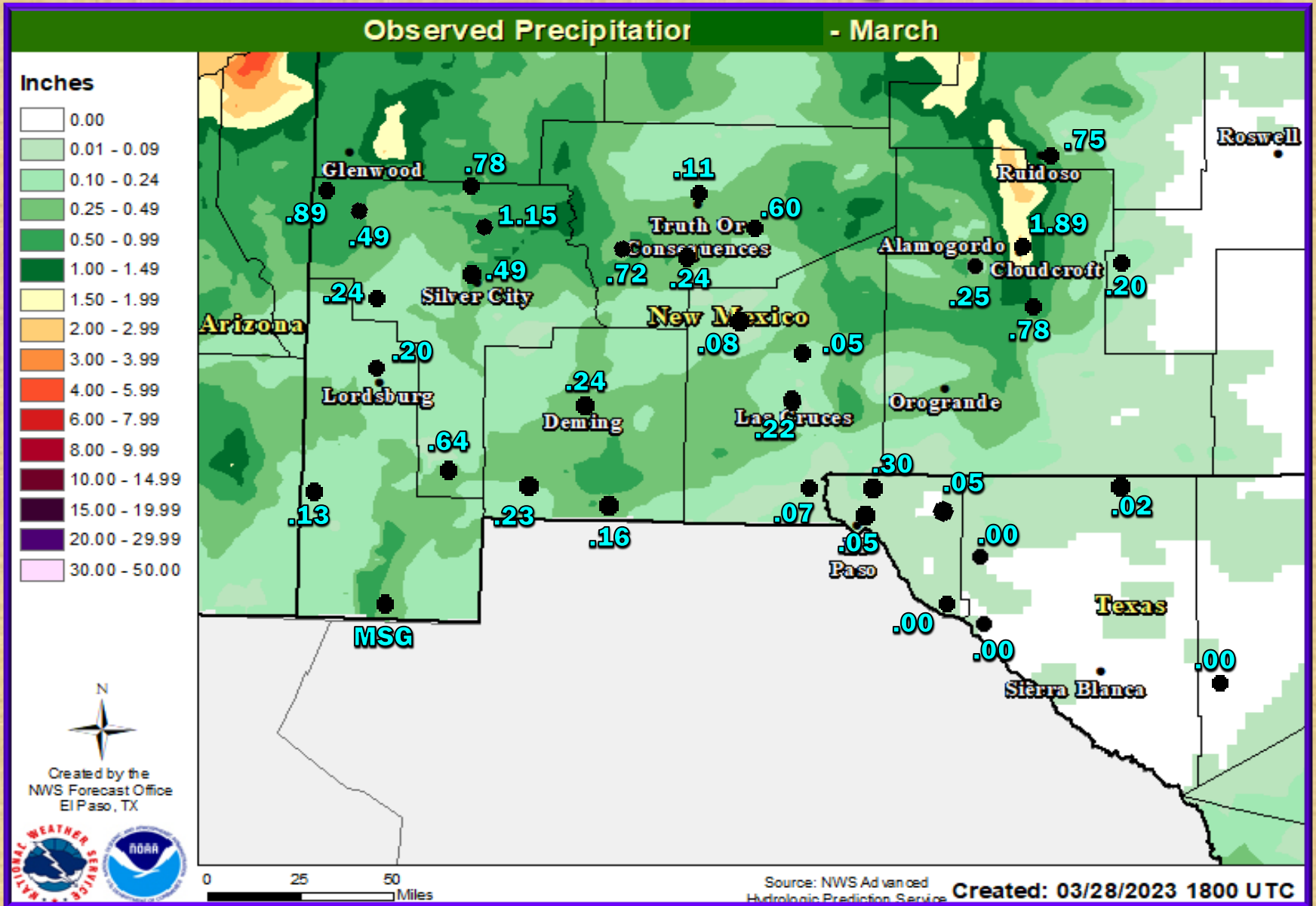
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



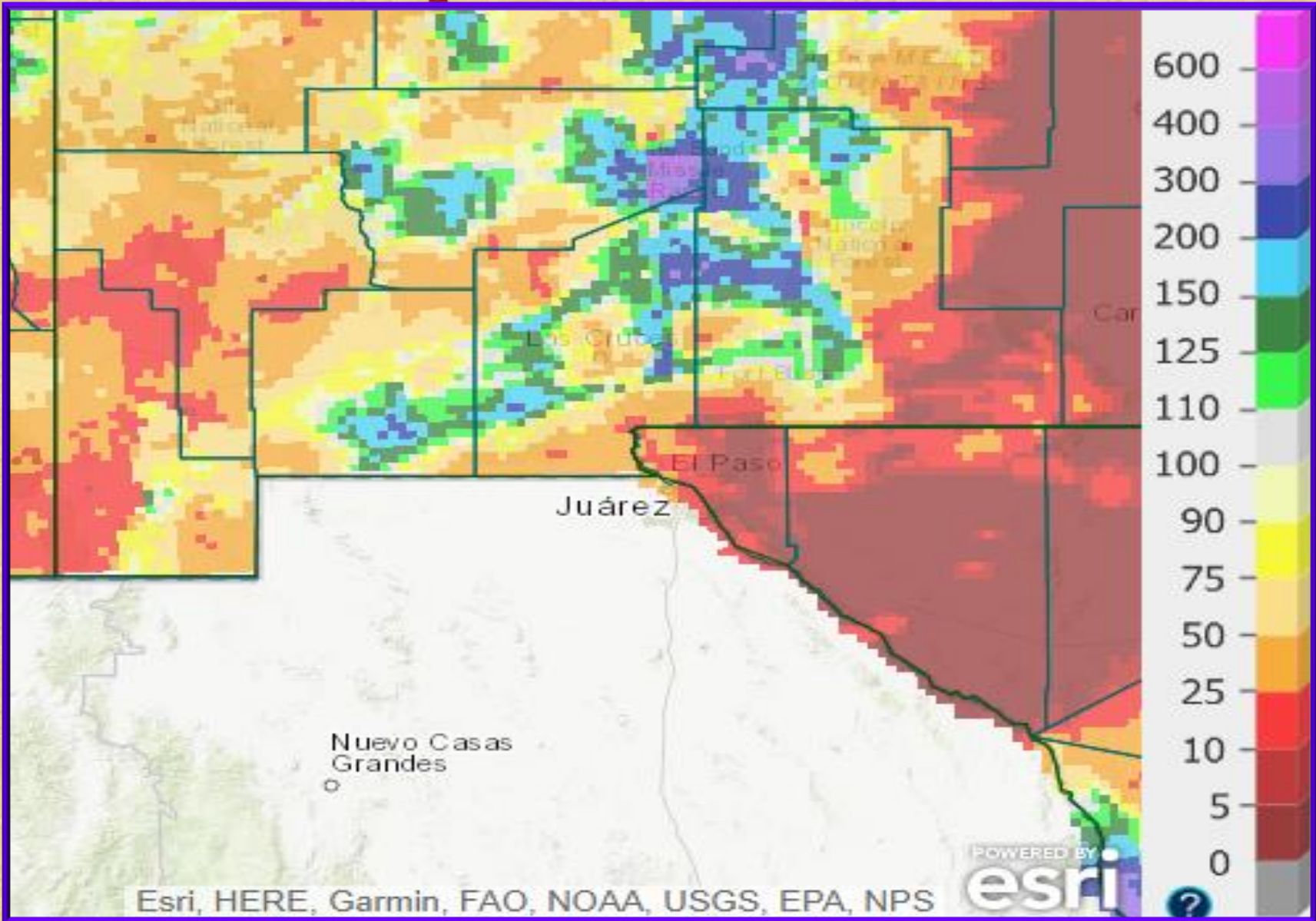
Temperature and Precipitation for 2023 YTD for El Paso



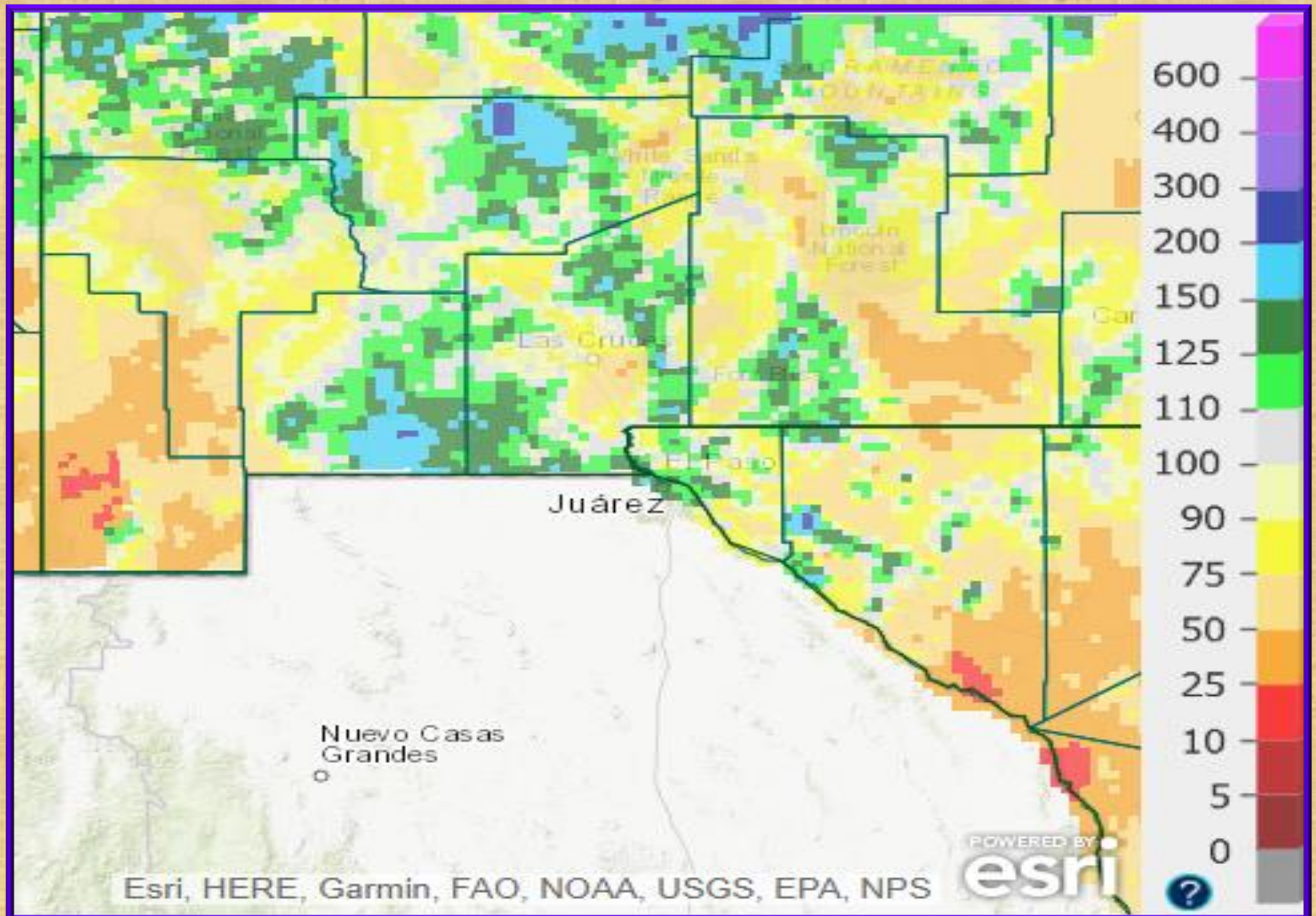
March 2023 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports



March 2023 rainfall estimate percent of normal



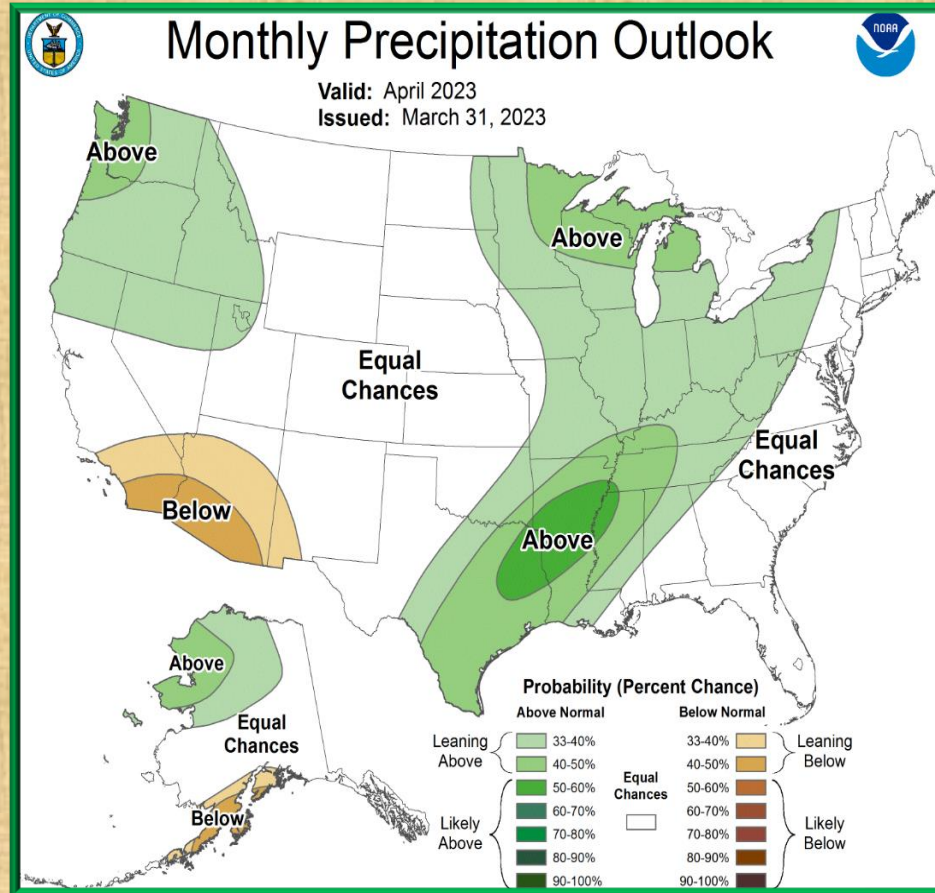
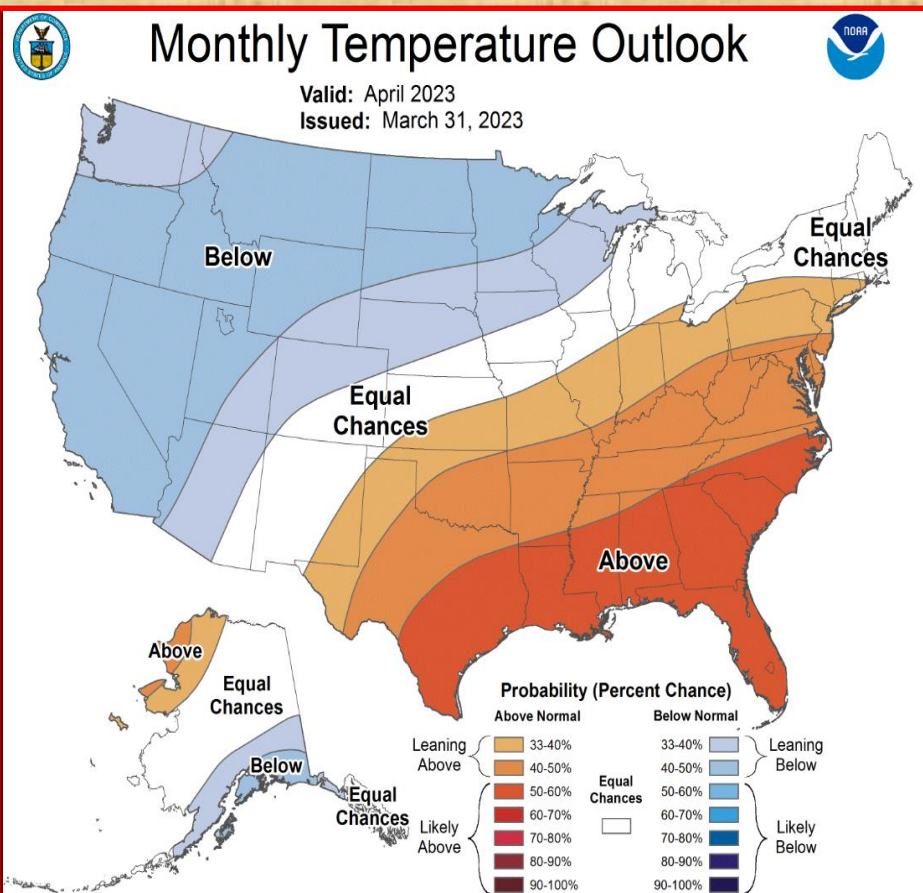
Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for the Water Year (Oct 1 – Mar 31)



Temperature and precipitation outlook For April 2023

Temperature

Precipitation



Temperature and precipitation outlook for April-June 2023

Temperature

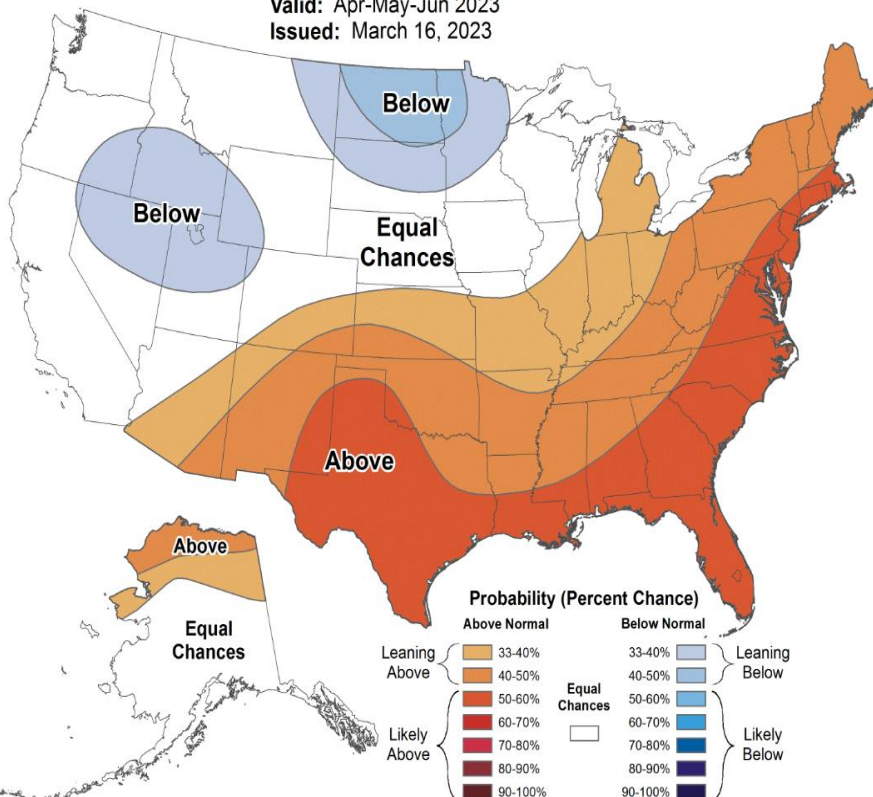
Precipitation



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



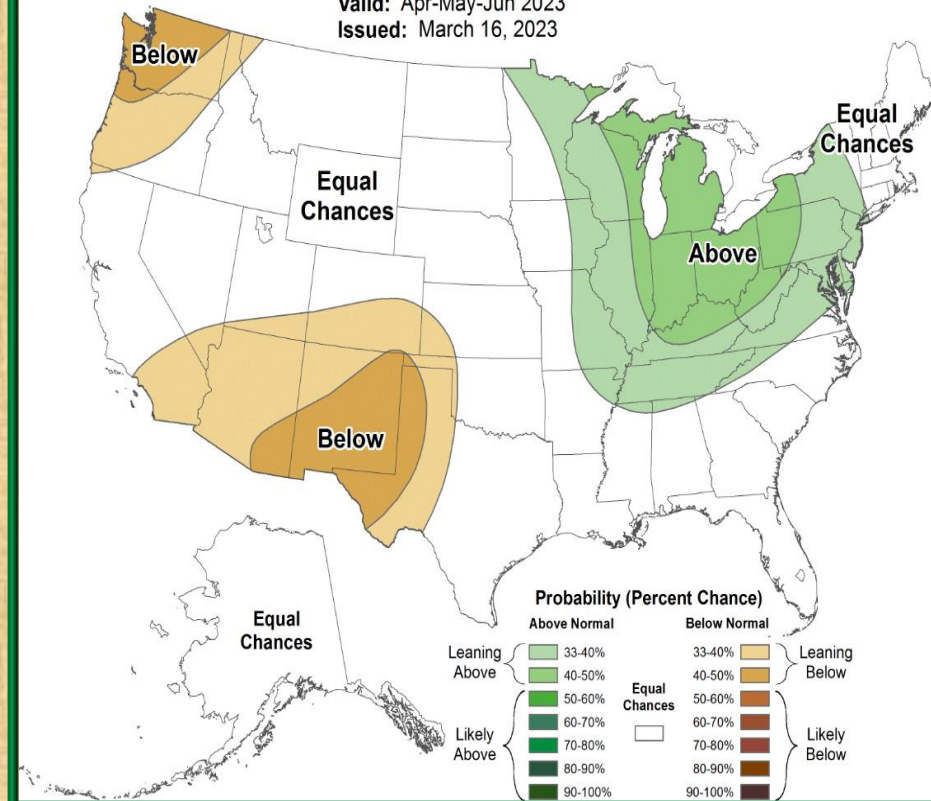
Valid: Apr-May-Jun 2023
Issued: March 16, 2023



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Apr-May-Jun 2023
Issued: March 16, 2023



Temperature and precipitation outlook for Jul-Sep 2023

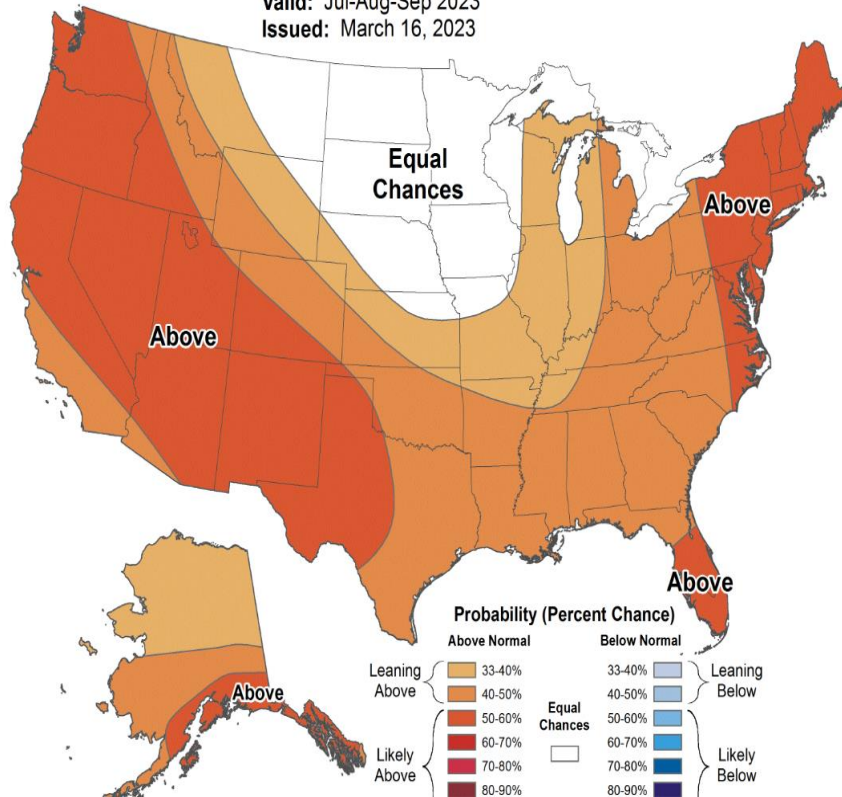
Temperature



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2023
Issued: March 16, 2023



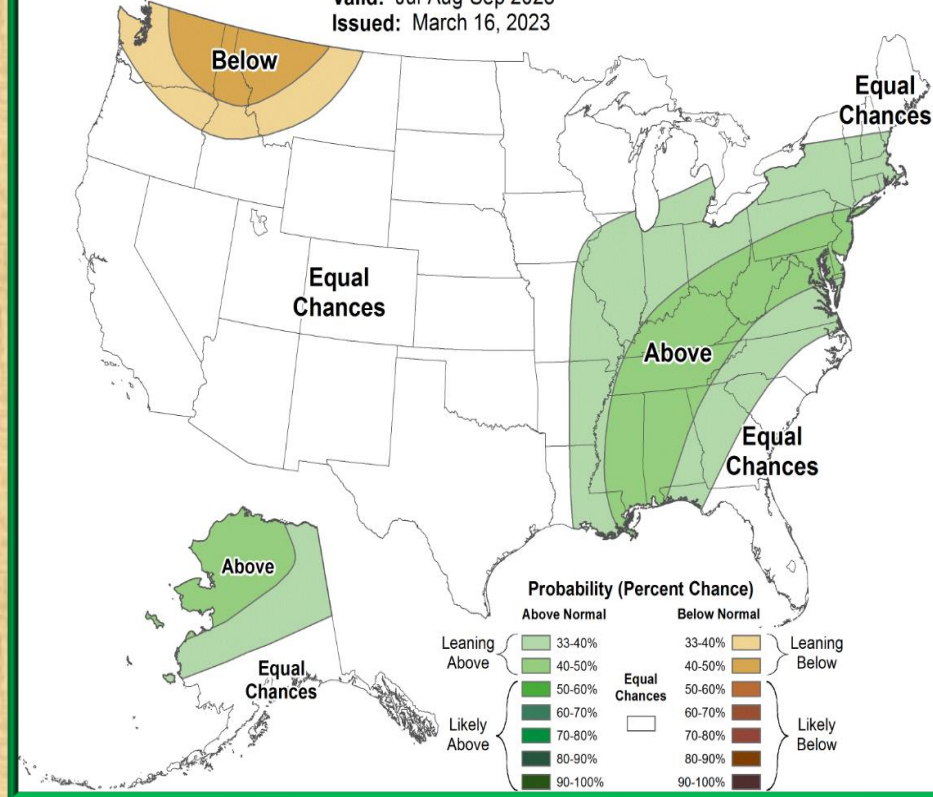
Precipitation



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2023
Issued: March 16, 2023

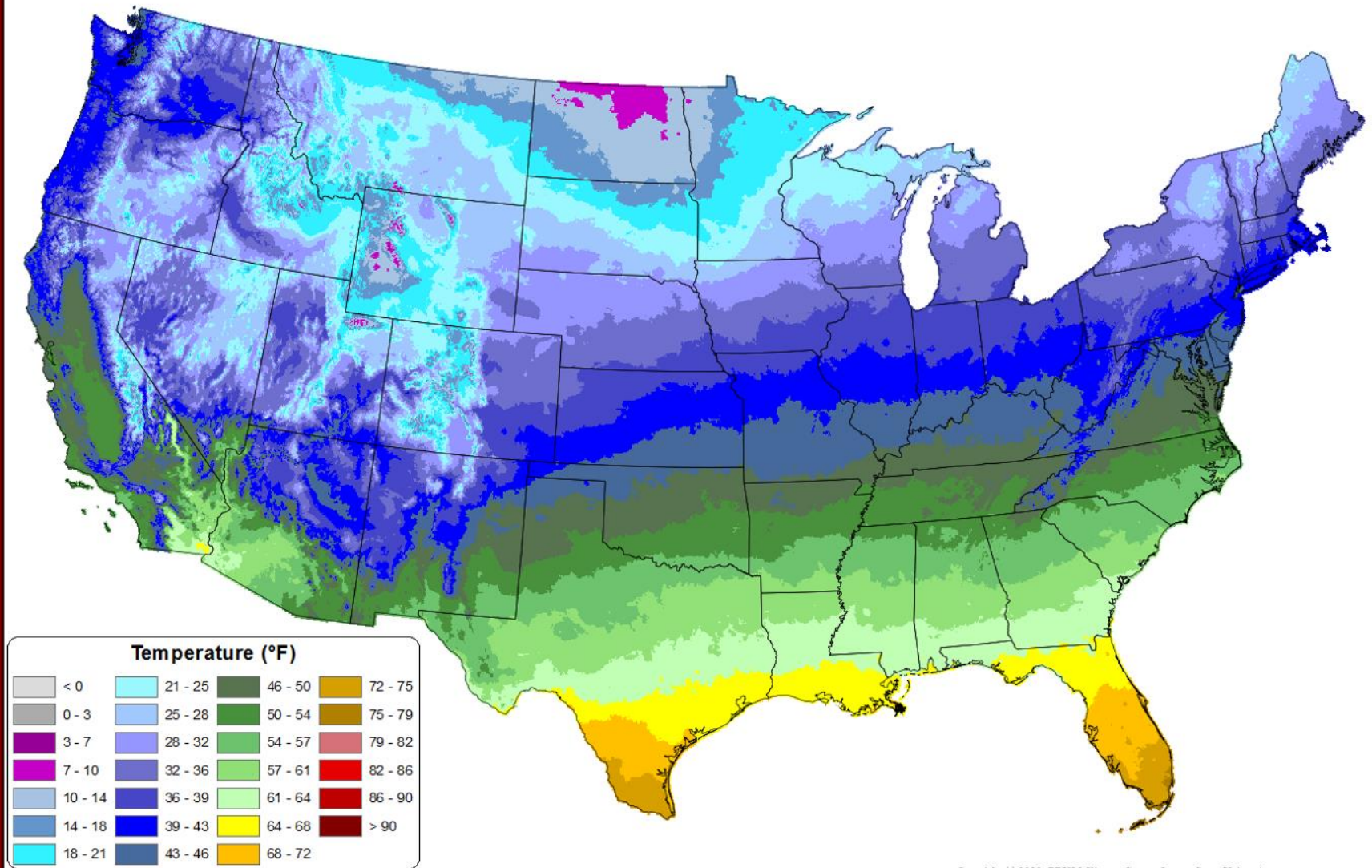


Average Daily Mean Temperature for March 2023

Average Daily Mean Temperature: 01 Mar 2023 - 31 Mar 2023

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2023

(Map created 01 Apr 2023)

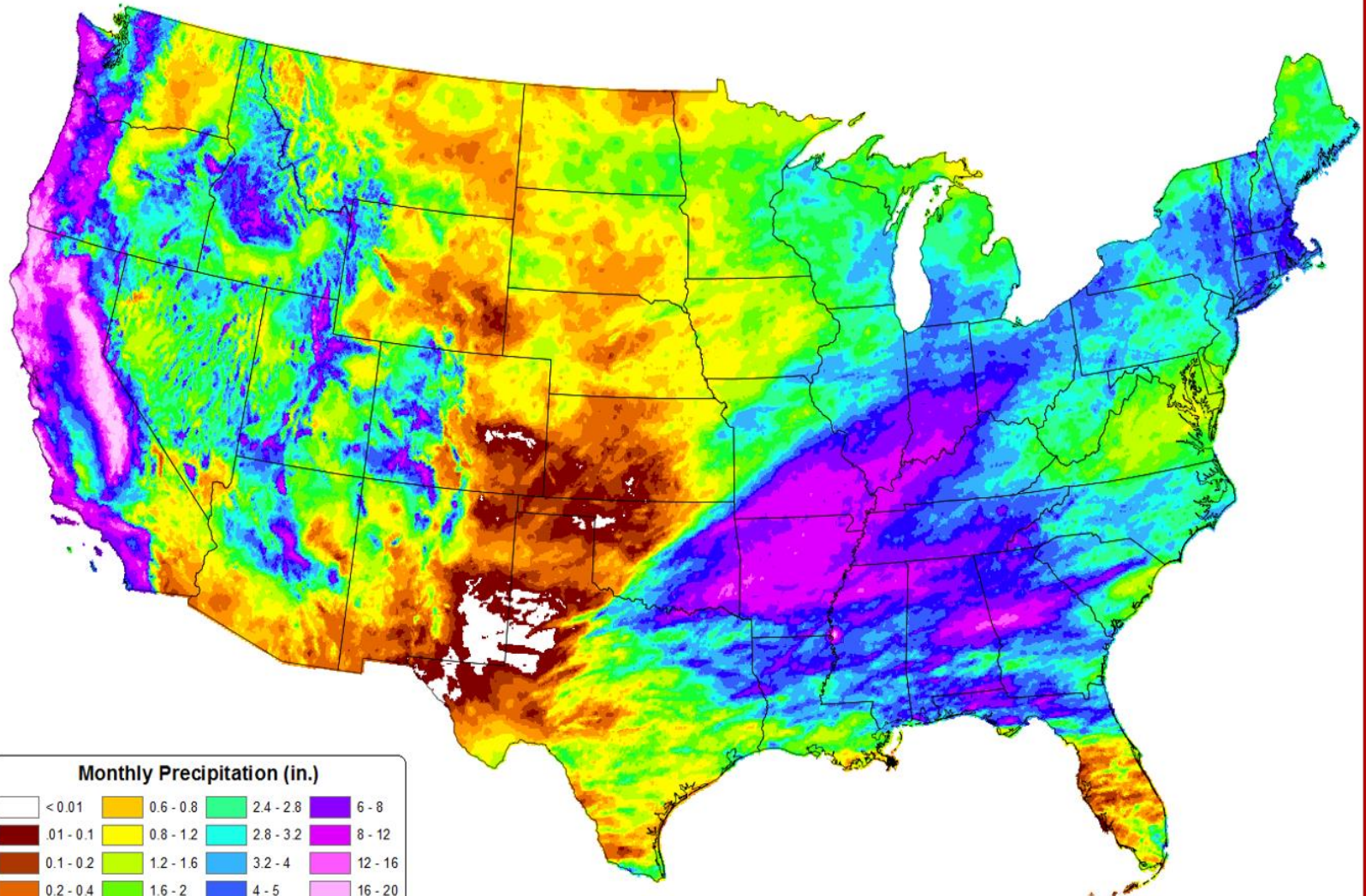


Total Precipitation for March 2023

Total Precipitation: 01 Mar 2023 - 31 Mar 2023

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2023

(Map created 01 Apr 2023)



Selected Weather Reports March 2023

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
MARCH 2 1230 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	67 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 2 104 PM	SIERRA BLANCA-HUDSPETH	61 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 2 655 PM	WSMR MUSEUM-DONA ANA	59 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 2 606 AM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	56 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 2 124 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	55 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 2 1022 AM	DELL CITY-HUDSPETH	53 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 2 215 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	49 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 2 1245 AM	NORTH LORDSBURG PLAYA-HIDALGO	49 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 2 230 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	45 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 23 500 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	65 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 23 410 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	50 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 23 540 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	47 MPH PEAK WIND

Selected Weather Reports March 2023

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
MARCH 23 330 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	46 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 23 420 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MP13-HIDALGO	45 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 23 415 PM	SPACEPORT AMERICA-SIERRA	45 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 23 254 PM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	44 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 23 515 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	41 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 23 500 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	41 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 335 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	74 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 345 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MP9-HIDALGO	60 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 425 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	59 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 925 PM	BIGGS FIELD-EL PASO	58 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 310 PM	SPACEPORT AMERICA-SIERRA	58 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 319 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	57 MPH PEAK WIND

Selected Weather Reports March 2023

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
MARCH 30 226 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DON ANA	56 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 335 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	54 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 457 PM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	54 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 725PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	53 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 241 PM	MESCALERO-OTERO	52 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 430 PM	MAYHILL-OTERO	49 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 410 PM	SIERRA BLANCA-HUDSPETH	48 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 235 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	48 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 1242 PM	HOLLOMAN AFB-OTERO	46 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 530 PM	SILVER CITY MTN VIEW-GRANT	45 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 535 PM	GRANT CO AIRPORT-GRANT	43 MPH PEAK WIND
MARCH 30 135 PM	ALAMOGORDO AIRPORT-OTERO	41 MPH PEAK WIND

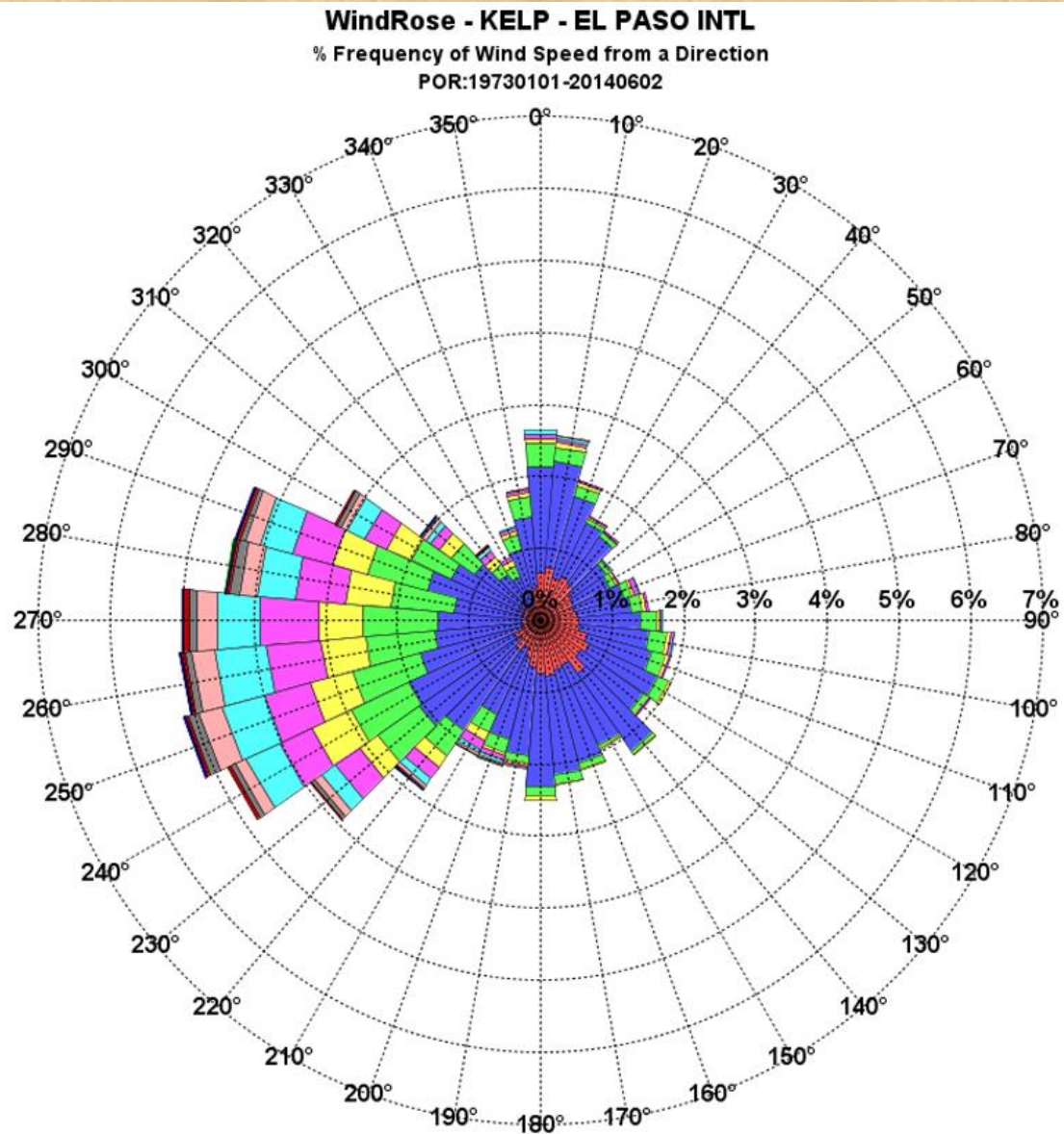
Special Features


<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/epz/?n=elpwindrosedata>

Month: MARCH

Calm: 8.61%

Variable: 2.25%





NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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Local forecast by "City, St" or ZIP code

[Location Help](#)

Heavy Rain and Flash Flooding Possible Over Parts of the Eastern United States

Heavy rainfall is expected over portions of the eastern United States through Thursday. Flooding and flash flooding will be possible in some areas. Click the "Read More" link for excessive rainfall forecasts from the Weather Prediction Center. [Read More >](#)

NWS El Paso

[Weather.gov > El Paso, TX](#)


El Paso, TX
Weather Forecast Office

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Today

Wednesday

Warmer with a Few Afternoon Storms



Weather Forecast Office
El Paso, TX
September 27, 2016 4:43 PM

Heavy rain expected across the Mid-Atlantic region and central Appalachians.


Heavy rainfall is possible over portions of the eastern United States today, with the highest risk across the Mid-Atlantic and central Appalachians. Click the "Read More" link for excessive rainfall forecasts from the Weather Prediction Center. Afternoon showers and thunderstorms are possible over portions of the Southwest and southern Rockies through Friday. [Read More >](#)

Monthly Weather Digest

[Weather.gov > El Paso, TX > Monthly Weather Digest](#)

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Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas has a variety of weather from month to month. Conditions can range from extreme drought, to heavy flooding rains, from record breaking heat to bone chilling cold. Below you will find past weather highlights from the area that the NWS office in Santa Teresa NM covers. This area includes the following counties in New Mexico: Hudspeth, Grant, Luna, Sierra, Doña Ana and Otero and the following counties in Texas: El Paso and Hudspeth.

WEATHER DIGESTS AND BULLETINS

Weather Digest	Southwest Weather Bulletins
January	2005 Spring Fall
February	2006 Spring Fall
March	2007 Spring Fall
April	2008 Spring Fall
May	2009 Spring Fall
June	2010 Spring Fall
July	2011 Spring Fall
August	2012 Spring Fall
September	2013 Spring Fall
October	2014 Spring Fall
November	
December	

Don't Forget-Current and past issues of our Weather Digest are available on our website at <http://www.weather.gov/epz/>

Just click on "Local Programs>Weather Digest", then choose which month's Digest to view. Also, though discontinued, don't forget to check out our back issues of Southwest Weather Bulletin.